



NRC NEWS

**U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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NRC TO MEET WITH EXELON TO DISCUSS ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT OF PEACH BOTTOM NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of Exelon Generation Company on Wednesday, March 26, to discuss the results of the agency's annual assessment of safety performance at the Peach Bottom nuclear power plant. The twin-reactor facility is located near Delta, Pa., and operated by Exelon.

The meeting, which will be open to the public for observation, is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. at the Peach Bottom Inn, 6085 Delta Road in Delta. Before the session is adjourned, NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the safety performance of the Peach Bottom plant, as well as the role of the NRC in ensuring safe plant operation.

The performance period to be discussed is January 1 to December 31, 2002. In addition, NRC staff will provide an overview of how the agency's Reactor Oversight Process works.

A letter sent from the NRC Region I Office to Exelon addresses the performance of the plant during the period and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/pb_2002q4.pdf

"Overall, both units at the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives," the letter says. However, in response to a finding of low to moderate safety significance ("white") identified in July 2002, involving the way an event was assessed under the emergency classification scheme, the NRC plans to conduct a supplemental inspection in that area.

In addition, the letter notes: "As you are aware, since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the NRC has issued several Orders and threat advisories to enhance security capabilities and improve guard force readiness. We have conducted inspections to review your implementation of these requirements and have monitored your actions in response to changing threat conditions. For calendar year 2003, we plan to continue these inspections, conduct portions of the security baseline inspection program, as well as perform additional inspections to evaluate your compliance with new requirements that may be ordered. "

Current performance information for Peach Bottom Unit 2 is available on the NRC web site at:
http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/PB2/pb2_chart.html

Current performance information for Peach Bottom Unit 3 is available on the NRC web site at:
http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/PB3/pb3_chart.html

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